

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IIIA ORGANIZATION REPORT 06/29/99

ORG-NO: 211094

*****FILE INFORMATION*****

FILE-NO: PG-300A-PG-66432 (P)

CAS-NO: 727134

THE RAINBOW FAMILY OF LIVING LIGHT, NORTH AMERICAN
RAINBOW GATHERING, WARREN, PA
6/28 - 7/10/99
COUNTERTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS - SPECIAL EVENT

TYPE CASE: (USXXDT) DOMESTIC TERRORISM
PROGRAM: COUNTERTERRORISM
CASE-AGENT: [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

SQUAD: 4

OPENED: 06/04/1999

CLOSED: .

AUXILIARY OFFICE(S): AL-300A-66432
LV-300A-66432
NK-300A-66432
RH-300A-66432
SL-300A-66432
AT-300A-66432
LR-300A-66432
BH-300A-66432
HN-300A-66432
LS-300A-66432
BF-300A-66432
HO-300A-66432
SU-300A-66432
NO-300A-66432
LA-300A-66432
NF-300A-66432
NH-300A-66432
SI-300A-66432

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 04-29-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

*****GENERAL INFORMATION*****

NAME

TYPE

RAINBOW FAMILY OF THE LIVING LIGHT

EXISTENCE FROM: AS OF 00/00/1972 TO:
TIS NATURE(S): POLITICAL

/ ACTIVE

NO ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATION RECORDS ENTERED

*****PERSONS INFORMATION*****

300 A Pg-66432
MAINTAINED AS TOP SERIAL

IIIA ORGANIZATION REPORT 06/29/99

ORG-NO: 211094

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TRUE NAME (PER-NO)	BIRTH-DT	ROLE/ACT-HIST/SUSP-VERI
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NO ADDRESS INFORMATION

NO PHONE INFORMATION

NO VEHICLE INFORMATION

NO ITEMS INFORMATION

NOTE: EVENTS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE
THERE ARE:

1 DEMONSTRATION(S)
4 MEETING(S)
---RUN PD-EVENT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IIIA ORGANIZATION REPORT 06/29/99

ORG-NO: 211094

*****CASE NARRATIVE*****

DATE-INFO: 06/29/1999

NAR-NO: 2344218

THE RAINBOW FAMILY OF LIVING LIGHT (RFLL) IS HAVING A NATIONAL GATHERING IN THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST, WARREN, PA, 6/28-7/10/99. THE RFLL IS, BY THEIR OWN DEFINITION, THE LARGEST NON-ORGANIZATION OF NON-MEMBERS IN THE WORLD. THEY HAVE NO ORGANIZATION AND NO LEADERS. THEY ADVOCATE NON-VIOLENCE AND ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. THE CORE CONSTITUENCY OF THE RFLL ARE PEOPLE WHO EMBRACED THE "HIPPIE" MOVEMENT IN THE 1960S. THE ORGANIZATION ATTRACTS JUVENILE RUNAWAYS, NUDISTS, VEGETARIANS, SKIN HEADS AND OTHERS WHO REJECT MAINSTREAM AMERICAN VALUES.

*****END OF REPORT*****

DATE: 04-29-2010
CLASSIFIED BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls/AAG
REASON: 1.4 (d)
DECLASSIFY ON: 04-29-2035

~~SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IIIA EVENT REPORT 06/29/1999

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

ORG-NO: 211094

=====

EVENT-NO: 1289998 FILE-NO:100-KX-59942-SUB-SER2
EVENT TYPE: MEETING/CONTACT
CATEGORY: MEETING
SUSPECTED AS OF 04/07/1990 FOR 0 (HHMM)
FROM: ACTUAL [redacted] AT
TO: ACTUAL [redacted] AT

ASSOC-NO:

FIRST SATURDAY

[redacted]

RAINBOW FAMILY OF THE LIVING LIGHT

[redacted]

[redacted]

<<<

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b2
b7D

NAR-NO: 587083 [redacted]
SOURCE ADVISED [redacted]

[redacted]

EVENT-NO: 1289999 FILE-NO:100-KX-59942-SUB-SER2
EVENT TYPE: MEETING/CONTACT
CATEGORY: MEETING
PLANNED AS OF 06/01/1990 FOR 0 (HHMM)
FROM: ACTUAL 06/01/1990 AT
TO: ACTUAL 06/03/1990 AT

ASSOC-NO: 175990

FIRST FRIDAY

RAINBOW FAMILY OF THE LIVING LIGHT

[redacted]

[redacted]

<<<

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

IIIA EVENT REPORT 06/29/1999

ORG-NO: 211094

=====

NAR-NO: 587084 DATED 06/01/1990

[REDACTED]

EVENT-NO: 1290001 FILE-NO:100-KX-59942-SUB-SER4
EVENT TYPE: MEETING/CONTACT
CATEGORY: MEETING
SUSPECTED AS OF 06/01/1990 FOR 0 (HHMM)
FROM: ACTUAL [REDACTED] AT
TO: ACTUAL [REDACTED] AT

ASSOC-NO: 175990

FIRST FRIDAY

[REDACTED]

RAINBOW FAMILY OF THE LIVING LIGHT

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b2
b7D

NAR-NO: 587085 [REDACTED]
SOURCE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EVENT-NO: 1292266 FILE-NO:199-MW-24572-SUB-SER1
EVENT TYPE: DEMONSTRATION
CATEGORY: INCIDENT
PLANNED AS OF FOR 0 (HHMM)
FROM: APPROX 08/15/1990 AT

ASSOC-NO: 176960

FIRST

(S) RAINBOW FAMILY OF THE LIVING LIGHT

[REDACTED]

<<<

NAR-NO: 588838 DATED

[REDACTED]

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IIIA EVENT REPORT 06/29/1999

(S)

ORG-NO: 211094

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EVENT-NO: 15034212 FILE-NO:300-PG-66432-SUB-SER1
EVENT TYPE: MEETING/CONTACT
CATEGORY: MEETING
PLANNED AS OF 06/28/1999 FOR 0 (HHMM)
FROM: ACTUAL 06/28/1999 AT
TO: ACTUAL 07/10/1999 AT

ASSOC-NO:

FOURTH MONDAY

RAINBOW FAMILY OF THE LIVING LIGHT
ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST
WARREN PA

<<b2

NAR-NO: 2344223 DATED 06/29/1999
THE RAINBOW FAMILY OF LIVING LIGHT (RFL) IS HAVING A NATIONAL
GATHERING IN THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST, WARREN, PA, FROM
6/28-7/10/1999. THE RFL IS, BY THEIR OWN DEFINITION, THE LARGEST
NON-ORGANIZATION OF NON-MEMBERS IN THE WORLD. THEY HAVE NO
ORGANIZATION AND NO LEADERS. THEY ADVOCATE NON-VIOLENCE AND
ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. THE CORE CONSTITUENCY OF THE RFL ARE PEOPLE
WHO EMBRACED THE "HIPPIE" MOVEMENT IN THE 1960S. THE ORGANIZATION
ATTRACTS JUVENILE RUNAWAYS, NUDISTS, VEGETARIANS, SKIN HEADS, AND
OTHERS WHO REJECT MAINSTREAM AMERICAN VALUES. SINCE 1972 THE RFL HAS
BEEN STAGING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL GATHERINGS, WHICH ARE USUALLY HELD
IN RURAL AREAS ON PUBLIC LAND. THE NATIONAL GATHERINGS ARE TYPICALLY
ATTENDED BY ABOUT 15,000 TO 25,000 PEOPLE. WHILE THE RFL FROWNS UPON
ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION, THE GROUP OPENLY PROMOTES HERBAL DRUGS WHICH
CAUSE PSYCHEDELIC OR HALLUCINOGENIC REACTIONS. MARIJUANA AND MUSHROOMS
ARE COMMONLY USED BY PEOPLE AT THESE GATHERINGS BUT OTHER CONTROLLED
SUBSTANCES ARE ALSO UTILIZED. LAST YEAR'S GATHERING IN APACHE, AZ,
RESULTED IN NUMEROUS LOCAL ARRESTS AND SEVERAL FUGITIVE ARRESTS.

****END OF REPORT****

~~SECRET~~

(01/26/1998)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 04-29-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 06/07/1999

To: All Field Offices

Attn: ADIC;
SAC

Criminal Investigative

From: Pittsburgh

Squad 8/Erie RA

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Case ID #: 300A-PG-66432 (Pending)

Title: THE RAINBOW FAMILY OF LIVING LIGHT,
NORTH AMERICAN RAINBOW GATHERING,
ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST,
WARREN PA;
JUNE 28 - JULY 10, 1999;
COUNTERTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS - SPECIAL EVENT
OO: PITTSBURGH

HIA - PITTSBURGH	
ENTER 6/29/99	<i>Joe</i>
ACDIFY	_____
REVIEW	_____
THRU SERIAL	_____

Synopsis: To report a special event and request positive source information.

Details: For the information of all offices, the Rainbow Family of Living Light (RFL) is having a national gathering in the Allegheny National Forest, Warren, PA from June 28th to July 10, 1999. The RFL is, by their own definition, the largest non-organization of non-members in the world. They have no organization and no leaders. They advocate non-violence and alternative lifestyles. The core constituency of the RFL are people who embraced the "hippie" movement in the 1960's. The organization attracts juvenile runaways, nudists, vegetarians, skin heads, and other who reject mainstream American values.

Since 1972, the RFL has been staging national and regional gatherings, which are usually held in rural areas on public land. The national gatherings are typically attended by about 15,000 to 25,000 people.

While the RFL frown upon alcohol consumption, the group openly promotes herbal drugs which cause psychedelic or hallucinogenic reactions. Marijuana and mushrooms are commonly used by people at these gatherings but other controlled substances are also utilized.

to home
to SA
6/13/99
[Signature]

Search _____
Index _____
Serialized _____
Inclosed _____
Filed _____

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300A-PG-66432-1

158dw01.ec

To: All Field Offices From: Pittsburgh
Re: 300A-PG-66432, 06/07/1999

Last year the national gathering was held in Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, AZ. [redacted] United States Forest Service, Atlanta, GA, telephone [redacted] advised that the AZ gathering resulted in numerous local arrests and several fugitive arrests.

[redacted] advised that the 1999 RFLG gathering is planned for the Allegheny National Forest located in northwestern PA. The Forest Service expects approximately 25,000 people to attend. The RFLG has not indicated where it intends to gather in the Allegheny National Forest, which extends into Warren, McKean, and Elk counties.

[redacted] PA State Police (PSP) Meadville, PA advised that a command post will be established with the Forest Service at the Sheffield Ranger Station, Route 6, Sheffield, PA.

RFLG adherents actively use the Internet to communicate and to disseminate information.

Positive information regarding the gathering should be reported to the Erie Resident Agency, Pittsburgh Division, telephone number [redacted] attention SA [redacted]

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To: All Field Offices From: Pittsburgh
Re: 300A-PG-66432, 06/07/1999

LEAD (s):

Set Lead 1: (Adm)

ALL RECEIVING OFFICES

Receiving offices are requested to query logical sources regarding the Allegheny National Forest RFLG gathering. Positive information only should be provided to Pittsburgh, Erie RA.

It should be noted that the Erie RA operates a fugitive task force. Direct appropriate leads for any fugitive who might be affiliated with the RFLG to Pittsburgh, Erie RA.

♦♦

~~SECRET~~

DATE: 04-29-2010
CLASSIFIED BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls/AAG
REASON: 1.4 (d)
DECLASSIFY ON: 04-29-2035

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

(01/26/1998)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 06/29/1999

To: Pittsburgh

Attn: SA [REDACTED]

From: Pittsburgh

Squad 4

Contact: [REDACTED]

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Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Case ID #: 300A-PG-66432 (Pending)

Title: THE RAINBOW FAMILY OF LIVING LIGHT,
NORTH AMERICAN RAINBOW GATHERING,
ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST,
WARREN, PA;
JUNE 28 - JULY 10, 1999
COUNTERTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS - SPECIAL EVENT
OO: PITTSBURGH

Synopsis: Results of Integrated Intelligence Information
Application (IIIA) set forth.

Details: On 6/29/1999, IIIA was reviewed for any information
pertaining to the Rainbow Family of Living Light. The following
information was noted:

Investigation by Knoxville (100-KX-59942 Serial 2)
determined that on 4/7/1990, [REDACTED]

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There is no indication in IIIA that the Rainbow Family of
the Living Light [REDACTED]

IIIA - PITTSBURGH	
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REVIEW	7/1/99
THRU SERIAL	

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Search Gen. _____
Foims _____
Serialized DMC
Indexed _____
Filed DMC

1805SK01.EC

300A-PG-66432-2

~~SECRET~~

To: Pittsburgh From: Pittsburgh
Re: 300A-PG-66432, 06/29/1999

Knoxville's 100-KX-59942 was opened on 5/29/1990 based on information received concerning [REDACTED]

(S) [REDACTED] A polygraph examination was administered to source concerning information provided by source in this case. The [REDACTED] source's credibility and reliability were questioned. Therefore, Knoxville closed this case on 8/22/1990.

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The above information is being submitted for the information of Pittsburgh case Agent.

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~~SECRET~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 04-29-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Police warn of coming Rainbow meeting

When 20,000 people arrive at Allegheny National Forest, problems may follow

By JIM MARTIN
Staff writer

WARREN — They pay no dues and carry no cards, but more than 20,000 "non-members" of the National Rainbow Family are planning to settle into the Allegheny National Forest later this month.

State police are also telling residents and local business owners to be ready, but not to be worried.

There are no formal members of the Rainbow Family, but thousands of aging hippies and other free-thinking folks are expected to share food, conversation and a few dances around the campfire at the group's annual gathering, scheduled this year for June 27 to July 7.

This year they've settled on the Allegheny, where they held a smaller, regional gathering in 1996 and a

See **POLICE**, page 5B

III A - PITTSBURGH

ENTER _____
MODIFY _____
REVIEW 7/1/99 JSK
THRU SERIAL _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: June 6, 1999
Edition: Erie Times News
Title: Police warn of coming Rainbow meeting
Character: _____
or
Classification: _____
Submitting Office: _____

Indexing: _____

300-PG-66432

SEARCH GEN _____ FOIMS _____
SERIALIZED JSK INDEXED _____
FILED JSK

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300-PG-66432-3

POLICE: Expect some problems

Continued from page 1B

national gathering in 1986. The exact location of this year's get-together hasn't been confirmed, but state police say they expect it may be held in the Elk County portion of the forest.

In a pair of Warren County meetings — one Tuesday night and another Wednesday morning — state police said problems can be expected anytime an extra 20,000 people drop by for a visit.

A video of an earlier gathering emphasizes the free-spirited nature of the Rainbow camp, where people can be found banging drums, cooking in the communal kitchen or conducting impromptu talent shows.

However, it's problems with reported drug use and crime that sometimes spills into the outside community that has some people wishing the group would go elsewhere, according to police.

Trooper Jim Rogers warned local residents to keep a watchful eye out for shoplifting, car theft and folks who drive off without paying for their gasoline. He also urged residents to keep a tighter-than-usual grip on their belongings before, during and after the Rainbow gathering.

Some participants already have arrived in the area and others are expected to linger for weeks after-

"We are more than doubling the population. You are going to increase the amount of crime."

Trooper Jim Rogers

... on an increase in crime statistics with the arrival of the National Rainbow Family

ward.

In many cases, the solutions are simple. Rogers advises extra staffing, pay-before-pumping policies at gas stations, and added vigilance when it comes to locking up cars and other valuables.

"If you live in the country, you can get used to leaving the keys in the car," Rogers said.

Additional patrols have as much to do with the size of the group as the nature of the group, Rogers said.

"It's not like a whole group of hoodlums," he said. "You have professionals, doctors and lawyers. But you also have transients and people who are wanted."

Past experience, however, has police expecting some problems and urging parents to make sure their young children steer clear of the event.

"If you have kids, keep an eye on them," Rogers said. "It (the gathering) is an attraction to them."

For that matter, Rainbow gather-

ings aren't always G-rated.

"They are naturalists," Rogers said. "Nudity is one of the things they are about."

So long as that nudity takes place within the loose confines of the Rainbow gathering, Trooper Butch Maines said state police probably won't do much about it.

"If they stay within their encampment, I let it go," he said.

That doesn't mean police will ignore every infraction.

Sgt. Rod Williams, commander of the state police Warren barracks, said there are no plans to conduct massive drug raids. At the same time, vehicles could be searched as they enter the area.

"We're not taking a tolerant view of illegal substances," he said.

He sees no need to panic, but Rogers does expect a temporary spike in crime statistics.

"We are more than doubling the population," he said. "You are going to increase the amount of crime."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 04-29-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of
newspaper, city and state.)

Date: June 16, 1999
Edition: The Bradford Era
Title: Forest Service tries to
ease minds about rainbow
gathering.
Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

300A-PG-666432

III A - PITTSBURGH

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REVIEW 1/12/99 *pk*

THRU SERIAL _____

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SERIALIZED *pk* INDEXED _____ b7C
FILED *pk*

Forest Service tries to ease minds about Rainbow gathering

By GRETCHEN ROKSOKY
Era Correspondent

JOHNSONBURG — Forest Service officials tried to counter the perception that members of the Rainbow Family are being allowed to bend or break a number of rules at the same time that local loggers have run afoul of laws that protect endangered species.

At a public meeting held Tuesday evening at the Johnsonburg Borough building, Dave Love, owner of Love's Canoe Rental in Ridgway questioned why gates that are closed to local people are open to the Rainbows.

Kathe Frank, one of several Forest Service officials who attended the meeting, replied that the gates are open for parking purposes. "I understand that it could be perceived as a double standard," Frank said.

The meeting was attended by over 40 area residents, a dozen Rainbows, as well as a variety of law enforcement and Forest Service officials.

Love also expressed concern over the fact that the Rainbow Gathering is expected to attract 25,000 people to the Little Bear Creek area, which

is located about six miles west of Ridgway in the ANF. Love suggested that large a gathering might have a negative impact on the forest itself and on the endangered Indiana bat.

"They have this (Indiana) bat and stopped the logging and now they don't seem concerned," Love said.

When residents questioned how that many people can be allowed to gather in this small of a community, Johnsonburg Borough Police Chief Bryan Parana told them, "It's their Constitutional right to gather."

Frank said that Forest Service regulations state that groups of 75 or more must apply for a camping permit — which is given free of charge — before setting off into the woods.

As in the past, the Rainbows say they will not be getting an official permit for this year's gathering.

A Rainbow who attended the meeting said, "I would not sign a permit. I would go to jail before that. We don't respect that. I am ready to be arrested."

Another Rainbow explained the issue this way: "If we sign a permit, we enter into a contract. That takes away our freedom. I can't take responsibility for anybody else. They want you to say you are representing everybody else."

Bill Fox, commander of a Forest Service Incident Response Team that has been formed to manage the effects of the Rainbow Gathering, has said the Forest Service will probably take the Rainbows to federal court over the permit issue.

Parana told residents, "With this amount of people coming into the communities, convenience stores need to provide extra precautions, both to serve people and prevent retail theft"

"You need to take additional measures early on so we don't have

problems later on," Parana said. "As you know, in the County of Elk we don't have that many people. This will double our population, so that will affect everyone. Everyone is human beings here and should be treated equally. Hopefully, everything will be peaceful."

Trooper Dennis McFadden of the Ridgway State Police barracks said, "Just because they come into a store doesn't mean you can't serve them. They are like anyone else in our community. You have to treat everyone alike."

St. Marys City Police officer Julie Day asked about security for the gathering and if local police would be called if necessary.

A Rainbow representative explained that they are all part of "Shanti Sena," an informal group of Rainbows that responds to security problems at the gathering.

300A-PG-666432-4

At last year's gathering in Arizona, Rainbows themselves apprehended a man wanted for murder in Florida and turned him over to the local police.

"You don't turn your back on your neighbor," the Rainbow woman said. "We are self-sustaining. We are there for peace and healing. If you go per capita, the instances of crime are so much lower than in the cities. We are parents and grandparents, too. There are people there from all walks of life. There is no governing body and it's the best non-group I've never been a part of."

She went on to explain that for the most part trouble happens when there is outside intervention. "I have had some locals approach me trying to sell me drugs," the woman said. "I would really rather not see it. I run into it more in town than in the forest."

A Rainbow named Turtle explained how some members survive.

"Some people work 9 to 5 all year long to prepare for the gathering. A small part of the family is nomadic. We are here to work hard and prepare because we have the time and freedom to do it. Even though there's no money transactions at the gathering, it's all bartering, we pass around the magic hat at the evening meal."

"We speak what needs to be spoken, we eat and pass around the hat, and everyone puts in what they can," Turtle said. "Some put in a quarter, some a dollar and some just their love, but in the end you have scads of money. Each individual is responsible to bring their own cup, spoon and plate."

Turtle added, "It's not a cult, it's from every walk of life. We have problems and people who need to work through their problems.... We don't allow alcohol in the gathering, but there are some people who can't live without it. It doesn't mean they are not our family."

The next public meeting will be held at 7 p.m. today at the Lake City Community Center in Spring Creek, followed by another meeting slated for 7 p.m. Thursday at the Central Fire Hall in Ridgway.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 04-29-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Rainbows are coming

*Meeting meadow already
found lacking, however*

By JIM BUCK
Era Reporter

RIDGWAY — An advance party of the Rainbow Family has decided it won't be able to hold this year's gathering — expected to attract about 25,000 people — in a meadow-like area at the confluence of Bear Run and Little Otter Creek.

Ridgway prepares /2

Other meadows in the immediate vicinity are being considered.

At a council meeting Wednesday evening, the Rainbows agreed that the Bear Creek area is too ecologically sensitive and too small to accommodate the number of guests who are expected to show up for this counter-cultural event.

Only about 400 Rainbows are currently encamped along the banks of the two streams — and along the forest roads near them — which are located in the southeastern quadrant of the Allegheny National Forest.

Deep in the woods, their nylon tents and tarp-covered lean-tos are nestled among the ferns that carpet the ground in all directions, while less primitive encampments — vans, campers, and brightly painted buses — dot the surrounding forest roads.

A core group of Rainbows has the
(See RAINBOWS, Page 14)

Rainbows

task of arriving weeks in advance of the main event, which is expected to be at its peak between June 28 and July 10. These Rainbows do the difficult work of setting up what they refer to as "seed camp."

One of the most important elements associated with seed camp are communal kitchens that dish out food free to all comers. As of Wednesday, a couple such kitchens had been set up on or near forest roads, but deep in the woods — the spiritual center of the gathering — kitchen equipment has only just begun to arrive.

Food stores and cooking apparatus must be carried into the woods over trails that follow old logging roads, skid trails and deer tracks.

At Wednesday's council meeting, the central concern was picking a better location for the "main gathering," which is always held in a large clearing in one of the 155 forests in the U.S. National Forest system.

In late May, the Rainbows announced this year's gathering would be in the ANF, specifically at the point where Little Otter Creek flows into Bear Creek about six miles west of Ridgway.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: June 17, 1999
Edition: The Bradford Era
Title: The Rainbows are coming.

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

300A-PG-00432

III A - PITTSBURGH

ENTER _____

NO DEFY _____

REVIEW 7/12/99 *ast*

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300A-PG-00432-5 FBI/DOJ



RAINBOWS GATHERING — Surrounded by boxes of food and cookware that will later be assembled into a communal kitchen, Rainbow Family members gather Wednesday afternoon for a council circle. Decisions are made by consensus, and compliance is voluntary. In the background is the area that was to have served as the center of the gathering. However, the Rainbow council decided Wednesday that the area is too marshy to handle an influx of 25,000 people.

(Era photo by Jim Buck)

While the banks of Bear Creek look open and meadowy, much of the area has proved to be marshy and many other areas are not deemed suitable for kitchens or trench toilets — groundwater is so close to the surface that it could be easily contaminated, spreading illness.

"I think we can conclude that this area is inadequate," said a Rainbow named Bob.

"I hope we respect the watershed here," said Phillipe, a Rainbow. "If we go beyond those lines, we are going to get sick," he said, referring to a large wetland that had been cordoned off.

"This area was too small to begin with," observed Bam Bam. "Now it's gotten even smaller (because of the restricted areas)."

Forest Service spokeswoman Kathe Frank expressed concern about the Rainbows' decision to re-center their gathering.

"We have been sending our resource people — soil and archeology experts — to scope out the area and pass on insights as to what we'd like to see protected and how to mitigate the effects of the gathering," Frank said. "If they move, we would have to start that process over on another site."

Rainbows have no elected leaders. Decisions like picking out a new central meadow are made by those who gather at the daily council circle. All are welcome to attend the council, but many do not. Wednesday's council circle consisted of about 30 Rainbows.

Action is taken only when all those present agree to the proposal.

On the question of where the gathering's new center will be, no decision was reached.

Some Rainbows described large meadows they had seen while hiking through the hills above Bear Creek, but others pointed out that further research will be needed.

For instance, no one seemed sure if the meadows described would afford easy access to spring water. One participant noted that pumping water uphill was possible, but it could get expensive.

The Forest Service has issued a bulletin advising that water drawn from springs and creeks in the area is not safe to drink and should, therefore, be boiled or filtered.

Several Rainbows agreed no decision on a new central location should be made until everyone had had a chance to scout out the new meadows. "The creator knows where we should be, so everybody needs to go up and feel the energy to see if it's right," Bam Bam said.

So far, the Rainbows' impact on the forest appears to be minimal. There is very little litter, and stream crossings are thoughtfully constructed.

One Rainbow asked if a reporter understood the reason behind the Rainbow Gathering.

"We are here to pray for peace," he said. "We are not against something, we are for something."

"Of course we'll have fun too because that is our nature," added Bam Bam.

Opening the council session, Phillipe expressed his feelings about the Rainbows: "A Rainbow (council) circle I attended many years ago changed my whole perspective on life," he said. "I was seeing the universal tribe come together and it touched my heart. It's not perfect, but people are making an effort."

"I see it growing in many ways," Phillipe added, "but in other ways we seem to be stagnated.... There's a lot to be done yet for our friends coming in from the four directions."

Locals are curious

Several area residents have been curious enough about the Rainbow Family of Living Light that they have set out for the Bear Creek area of the Allegheny National Forest to see the gathering for themselves.

Jamie and Laurie, a brother and sister who live in Ridgway, did just that on Wednesday. The pair, both in their 30s, seemed intrigued by the scene and got along quite well with everyone, despite the fact that some Rainbows were definitely on another wavelength.

Rainbows may have full names in their real lives, but once they get to a gathering, they tend to use a one-word handle that expresses the Rainbow side of their personality.

For instance, there was "One-ness," a 41-year-old Connecticut man who hitched a ride to the gathering site with Jamie and Laurie.

(See CURIOUS, Page 14)

Curious

One-ness is eager to alert his hiking companions to the fact that Mayan prophecies — recently interpreted by a mathematician name Jose Arguelles — state that the world will end on Dec. 31, 2012.

Specifically, on that date the sun up and start bombarding the earth with plasma energy that will somehow cause earth to be transported to the fifth dimension, according to One-ness.

Those earthlings whose minds and bodies are prepared to accept this plasma energy will also get to go to the fifth dimension. Those with energy blockages in their system will remain stuck in the third dimension.

Further down the trail, Jamie, Laurie and One-ness meet up with Brock, who explains that he is a native of New York City, a place he managed to "escape" 12 years ago.

Brock has rigged a lot of heavy kitchen equipment to two poles, making it into a litter that can be carried down the path to Kids Village, one of the gathering's communal kitchens.

Jamie and One-ness volunteer to help Brock move his burden about a mile down trail to the Rainbows central gathering spot near the confluence of Bear Creek and Little Otter Creek.

Before the group gets moving, they are joined by High, whose age is hard to guess because a huge dark curly beard, a mustache, and long dark hair hides much of his face.

High seems prone to worry.

"Is this poison sumac?" he asks, pointing to a sapling growing beside the path. "The Forest Service said there's poison sumac growing all over this area."

No one in the group has any idea what poison sumac looks like, but Brock says he knows how to make a tasty drink using water and the berries from a regular sumac tree.

As the party heads down the trail, High expresses other worries: Lyme disease, dire weather predictions, taking a wrong turn and getting lost in the woods.

Jamie is not surprised when he comes across a Rainbow smoking a joint next to the trail. He tells High that he can see the logic in choosing a gathering site that's so far from a road. "You can party your head off

without anybody bothering you," Jamie laughs.

Thanks partly to Jamie's dexterity with knots, the litter jammed with cooking supplies eventually arrives at the site of Kid's Village, which is a jumble of supplies and equipment.

From another direction, a quartet of Rainbows carries in a very large iron cooking grate that looks like it could easily weigh 200 pounds. They stop at Bear Creek to consider whether they should cross over using a Rainbow-made stone footbridge or wade through the water.

The question is resolved when two barefoot Rainbows pick up the grate and walk it slowly across the bridge. One of these young men is named Wing Nut, who is dressed in a baggy purple nightshirt with a teddy-bear appliqué at chest level.

Among this crowd, locals are fairly easy to spot — maybe because of their clothes or their hairstyle or the fact that they have just come from houses with indoor plumbing.

A Rainbow woman who needs to know the time spots a local and asks, "Do you have a reality meter?"

"No," the local man replies. The woman then explains that by "reality meter" she means "wrist watch."

An hour later, Kids Village is still in disarray — the problem being that many Rainbows consider this whole location unsuitable because it is too small and too marshy.

At 4:30, Bob picks up an ancient-looking trombone and blows several long, clear notes that carry up and down the valley — the signal that a council meeting is about to be held.

Time passes and no council meeting starts. A woman plays gently on her penny whistle while an ownerless dog howls in unison. "That dog has a good spirit," says Phillipe.

Dogs appear to be everywhere at the gathering and they seem to be treated almost as if they were people.

While waiting for council to start, Bam Bam rummages through the food stores and finds a jar of alfredo sauce and a loaf of rye bread.

He offers to spread the sauce over the bread, but Phillipe — who appears to be in charge of the kitchen apparatus — tells him to stay out of the food until he washes

his hands. But there's no soap handy and Bam Bam is hungry, as are several others.

The alfredo sauce sandwiches are made and passed around. And when Phillipe disappears up the trail for a moment, Bam Bam digs out a bag of chocolate chips and passes them around too, making everyone laugh in the process, including Phillipe.

Finally, the council meeting is held and the consensus is that a different meadow will have to be used as the main gathering site — meaning that all the kitchen stuff is going to have to be moved again, this time up hill.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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ERIE**Rainbow Family lacked permit**

A trial was scheduled for September for three men accused of not having a permit for the Rainbow Family gathering in the Allegheny National Forest.

The men were issued citations Tuesday for failing to obtain a permit for their gathering. Permits are required for groups of 75 or more people, and the gathering has attracted about 20,000 people.

Garrick Beck, Joan Kaalb and Stephen Sedlacko, who forestry officials believe are the leaders of the gathering, have not been arrested.

They could face a fine of up to \$5,000 and a sentence of up to six months in jail, Forest Service spokeswoman Rose Davis.

The men requested the trial at an appearance yesterday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Paradise Baxter, and she granted their request. The trial is set to begin Sept. 13.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Forest Service calls in backup for Rainbow Family reunion

RIDGWAY (AP) — Up to 30,000 people are expected in a remote section of the Allegheny National Forest in Elk County for the annual July 4 Rainbow Family reunion.

The commune-like group has chosen an area near Little Bear Creek in northwestern Pennsylvania, a prospect that has the U.S. Forest Service calling in reinforcements.

About 50 members of the National Incident Management Team have driven their Forest Service vehicles to Pennsylvania from as far away as California, Idaho and South Carolina to prepare for the gathering, officially scheduled for June 28 to July 10.

"I think you would be remiss if you didn't have enough resources," said Bill Fox of Montana, incident commander for the team. "When you have 25,000 people come in, you sort of see it all."

The Rainbows are a leaderless amalgamation of hippies, environmentalists, flower children and anarchists who have gathered each summer since 1971. They haven't camped at the Allegheny forest since 1986.

Last year, about 22,000 people came to the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in Arizona for the July 4 celebration.

With such an enormous expected turnout, Rainbow Family mailings encourage members to keep fires to a minimum and otherwise adhere to environmentally-sound camping procedures.

"Alcohol is discouraged, guns are inappropriate, violence is contrary to the spirit," one mailing reads.

But Rose Davis, who works at Caribou National

Forest in Idaho and will serve as spokeswoman for the gathering, said the Forest Service cannot be too careful. She has monitored nine Rainbow camps.

"I have seen changes in the attitude," she said. "They may have started with some noble reasons for going into the forest. (Now) there are more lost souls, people looking for a party."

The special Forest Service team will include law enforcement officers and health-care providers, among others.

Fox agrees that not all Rainbow campers live up to their philosophy of peace and love.

"The face of the Rainbow has changed," he said. "The Rainbows themselves have told me they refer to them as the Drainbows. There is a tough group that comes in."

The group typically does a good job leaving the forest clean, but Fox said he is concerned that they do not plan to use portable toilets. Instead, they will dig latrines in the soil, which could cause health and ecological problems.

Davis said the Forest Service is trying to help the group find soils that can safely handle the human waste.

"We cannot manage the gathering," she said. "'We manage the effects. It's a fine line of semantics, but it would be arrogant to say we can manage them.'"

The Rainbow group, which claims no distinct leader and makes decisions by consensus, could face

(See RAINBOW, Page 10)

Rainbow

a legal battle when the camp-out ends. The group failed to obtain a free special-use permit required of all groups of 75 or more, Fox said.

"It will become an issue," Fox said. "'We will issue citations and violation notices. We ultimately will go into federal courts over this.'"

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: June 14, 1999
Edition: The Bradford Era

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Residents complain about Rainbows

By GRETCHEN ROKOSKY
Era Correspondent

RIDGWAY — A public meeting on the Rainbow Gathering brought out over 120 residents who were very vocal in their displeasure over how the event is being handled both by the Forest Service and by law enforcement.

Ridgway resident Rick Leitzel claimed his 11-year-old son, Brock, and his 10-year-old nephew were subjected to indecent exposure and that local law enforcement haven't done a thing about it.

Brock Leitzel described the incident this way: "Me and my cousin were walking to get ice cream. A blue truck comes by with Rainbows, and a girl pulls up her shirt and flashes us and they did it three times and on the last time they were having sex in the back of the truck."

Rick Leitzel said he called the borough police on the day it happened (Saturday) and was told to call the state police on Monday. "I have called the state police two times since then about it," he said. "I am upset. If my cat gets lose, I'd get cited for it. I have a 7-year-old daughter who could have been with him them."

"Maybe it wasn't a Rainbow," Leitzel added, "but it just appears to me that everyone puts their heads in

(See RAINBOWS, Page 14)

Rainbows

the sand and hopes they go away soon."

Leitzel also noted that the Ridgway Little League fields have had water stolen from them twice already "and the officer tried to bury his head in the sand."

Not so, said State Police Trooper Dennis McFadden. "We are not going to turn our heads on anything," he said. "If we see a violation, it's going to be acted upon."

McFadden explained that more troopers from Erie, Butler, and Punxsutawney will be brought in to help handle the Gathering. There will also be mounted patrolmen and air support from Seneca.

"We are ready to deal with it," McFadden said. "A-camp (which is a separate area reserved for heavy drinkers) is where most of the problems have happened."

The most heated questions had to do with Forest Road 161 being opened for the Gathering — normally there is a locked gate at the entrance to that road and a sign stating that vehicular traffic is prohibited.

Forest Service personnel told the crowd the gates are opened for parking. With 25,000 people expected to converge on the event in the coming weeks, roads would become too congested otherwise.

Citizens also questioned the Forest Service about the fact that the Rainbows have not obtained a permit for their Gathering — a requirement that the Forest Service seems to be able to enforce on other forest users.

Forest Service personnel admitted that the Rainbows do not have a permit and will not apply for one. The issue is now being litigated and will end up in the Federal Supreme Court. The Rainbows feel they have a Constitutional right to gather on public land.

Residents were also concerned about "A-camp."

Bill Fox, commander of the Forest Service's Incident Response Team said, "We have had a little bit of a problem with A-camp when people drive up and (Rainbows)

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The Bradford Era

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come over to the vehicles. We have asked them not to do it and they have complied. I think that we can get that worked out between the Rainbows and ourselves."

When the question of human waste was brought up, Garrick Beck — one of 20 Rainbows at the meeting — said he has been working with the Rainbows for the past 27 years. He explained how slit trenches are used to keep the water supply safe.

"(The trenches) are designed right out of the U.S. (Marine Corps) and Army manuals," Beck said. "We have been working with the Forest Service. We have yellow tags in the trees leading to these facilities."

"We come together in what we call a 'Cathedral of Nature,'" Beck said. "I would say 95 percent of the people have left their cars, shouldered their backpacks and then hiked a mile or more in to be inside nature. I don't know how we could get port-a-potties in."

As far as problems with drugs and alcohol, Beck said, "I have to tell you — and it's hard to say — we have had three incidents of young people coming up to our camp trying to sell us drugs. The situation at the Gathering is essentially this: if somebody's behavior is a problem, they are a problem."

"Dealing and selling and trading is absolutely discouraged," Beck said. "The entire gathering is absolutely free. The whole concept of this sharing, caring society is no buying or selling."

A Rainbow named Raven runs a kitchen during the Gathering. He invited everyone out to see the site. "I will show you how these things are taken care of," he said.

The safety of ambulance personnel and equipment was brought up. The Rainbows have a medical area called CALM, explained Jane, a Rainbow nurse practitioner who works there. "No one who has been in our care has ever died," she said. "If someone is that sick that we need to call in an ambulance, no one is going to steal your oxygen."

Beck also explained that the Gathering will still be held in the same general area of the ANF, but that a new central meadow — the hub of Rainbow activity — has been chosen.

"That was a very good decision," Beck said. "It was based on our own consensus and conversations with local citizens and Forest Service people. The main area of the site is staying the same, just the main activity area is moving from the lower elevation area."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge rules against Forest Service over Rainbows

Case stems from 1996 gathering in Mo. forest

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service acted improperly in stopping and searching thousands of nature-loving hippies at a 1996 gathering in Mark Twain National Forest, a federal judge has ruled.

In a 26-page decision, Senior U.S. District Judge Russell Clark barred the U.S. Forest Service from using checkpoints and roadblocks to discourage illegal activity at the so-called Rainbow Family's annual gatherings on public land.

Rose Davis, a Forest Service spokeswoman, said the agency was not using checkpoints at this year's Rainbow Family gathering, now getting under way at Little Bear Creek in Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest. The service will depend on police patrols to enforce traffic laws and federal regulations.

Thousands of people turn out for the Rainbow Family gatherings, held every summer since the early 1970s at a national forest somewhere in the country. The "family" is a large but loose collection of counterculture enthusiasts.

More than 15,000 people streamed into south-central Missouri's Oregon County in June 1996 and set up camp for about three weeks in a section of the Mark Twain National Forest near the town of Thomasville.

Officers stopped more than 1,000 cars on a remote gravel road near the gathering between June 21 and July 10 of that year, according to participant Tracie Park, whose lawsuit led to the federal ruling.

Clark, in his ruling June 11, noted that the Forest Service's system of checkpoints and roadblocks uncovered only four felony drug cases worth pursuing.

"Targeting a group — any group — and setting up a checkpoint in close proximity to the site of their gathering in order to ferret out a few lawbreakers cannot be done at the expense of trammeling the rights of law-abiding citizens," Clark wrote.

"Basically subjecting Rainbow Family members to a 'shakedown' to achieve ignominious results should strike fear into any citizen who values their personal liberty."

Park, then a resident of St. Louis, filed suit in July 1996 contending the Forest Service had violated her Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable search and seizure. She sought an injunction barring such checkpoints in the future.

Park now lives in Canada. Her attorney, Fred Slough of Kansas City, said Clark's ruling was an important addition to the law governing how police could use roadblocks.

While the Supreme Court has allowed the use of roadblocks for narrow purposes, such as to catch drunken drivers or illegal aliens, it has not approved them for discouraging crime in general, Slough said.

"Law enforcement has taken this idea of using roadblocks to an extreme," Slough said. "This is a little finger in the dike saying, 'Hey, the courts have authorized roadblocks, but not anytime you want them.'"

The Rev. Steve Duncan of the Peace Conspiracy in Springfield attended the 1996 gathering. He said he was elated with the ruling.

"That's what we wanted to hear," Duncan said Monday. Clark "is a very insightful judge who upheld the Constitution and our forefathers."

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The Bradford Era

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Judge rules
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Rainbow Family trial delayed

A trial has been delayed for the three members of the Rainbow Family accused of failing to get permits for the family's gathering in the Allegheny National Forest this summer.

The trial had been scheduled for Monday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Paradise Baxter at the federal courthouse in Erie. Court officials this week said the three members chose to have their trial before a U.S. district judge, which will delay the proceedings.

The officials said either Judge Sean J. McLaughlin or Senior Judge Maurice B. Cohill Jr. could hear the case. No new trial date has been set.

The three Rainbows — Joan Kalb, Garrick Beck and Stephen Sedlacko — are not from Erie. They are contesting the case on constitutional grounds.

The Rainbows, many of whom are nonconformists, claim they have no leader. They also claim the U.S. Forest Service's permit process is wrong, partly because it makes individual permit holders responsible for the entire Rainbow group that assembled at the forest.

The permit charge is a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$5,000 and six months in prison. In past cases, Rainbows accused of the same offense have been found guilty and fined \$50.

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Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 06/11/2001

To: Pittsburgh

From: Pittsburgh

Squad 8/Erie RA

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Case ID #: 300A-PG-66432 (Pending)

Title: RAINBOW FAMILY OF LIVING LIGHT;
NORTH AMERICAN RAINBOW GATHERING;
ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST, PA;
SPECIAL EVENT

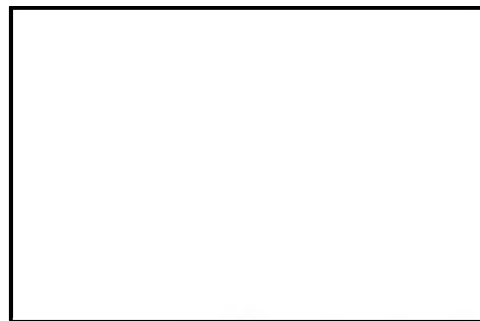
Synopsis: To close case

Details: Captioned organization held a gathering at the Allegheny National Forest in Elk, McKean, and Warren Counties of Pennsylvania. Investigation resulting from captioned matter was conducted in various 88 classification matters.

Pittsburgh is conducting no further investigation.

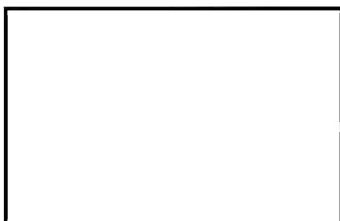
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